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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1937

BY

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.

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*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall, Workington,  
March, 1938.*

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THE WORKINGTON STAR LTD., OXFORD STREET.



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THE WORKINGTON STAR LTD., OXFORD STREET.

## MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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Mr. J. C. THOMPSON (Chairman)

Mr. J. A. CAPE.

Mr. E. DAVIES.

,, P. DALTON.

§ ,, T. ROPER.

,, H. R. CLUCAS.

\* ,, G. TAYLOR.

,, W. A. PALMER.

,, S. WALKER.

,, J. POOLE.

,, G. S. WRIGHT.

§ Retired in November.

\* Appointed in November.

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Mr. THOMAS JACKSON, ..... *Clerk to the Authority.*

R. W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.     *Port Medical Officer.*

W. EADIE, M.D. .... *Deputy Port Medical Officer.*

R. JAMES, M.R.S.I. .... *Sanitary Inspector.*

K. KETLEY, A.R.S.I. .... *Assistant Sanitary Inspector.*

(Appointed December, 1936).

(Commenced duty January, 1937).

TOWN HALL,

WORKINGTON,

February, 1938.

*Annual Report for the Year, 1937 of the Medical  
Officer of Health for the Workington Port Health  
Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1937.

The Report as set forth below has been prepared on the lines indicated in Memorandum 204/S.A. of the Ministry of Health, dated February, 1937.

*1.—Amount of Shipping Entering the Port  
during the Year.*

TABLE A.

			Number	Tonnage	No. Inspected		No. reported to be Defective.	No of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
					By Medical Officer of Health	By Sanit'y Inspector			
Foreign	{	Steamers ...	174	174040	69	173	31	29	...
		Motor ...	5	3507	3	5	...	...	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign			179	177547	72	178	31	29	...
Coast-wise	{	Steamers ...	510	97216	...	238	39	39	...
		Motor ...	41	6379	...	29	1	1	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ...	45	2527	...	10	..	...	...
Total Coastwise			596	106122	...	277	40	40	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise			775	283669	72	455	71	69	...



2.—*Character and Trade of the Port.*

TABLE B.

(a) *Passenger Traffic*.—There has been no passenger traffic during the year.

(b) *Cargo Traffic*.—The chief imports were Iron Ore; Manganese Ore; Manganiferous Ore; Coal; Bricks; Cement; Ganister; and Sand. The principal exports were Tar; Pitch; Creosote; Steel Sleepers; Rails, Billets, and Bars; Coal; Coke; Pig Iron; and Sulphate of Ammonia.

The import figures for Ore of all descriptions show a marked increase over those for 1936, namely 54,839 tons or 13%. This particular class of import has been steadily increasing during recent years, and nearly all the vessels concerned come from scheduled infected ports.

The exports, however, show a slight decrease compared with the figures for 1936.

(c) *Foreign Ports with which the Port Trades*:—

INWARDS FROM FOREIGN.			OUTWARDS TO FOREIGN.		
<i>Country.</i>	<i>Ports.</i>	<i>No. of Ships.</i>	<i>Country.</i>	<i>Ports.</i>	<i>No. of Ships.</i>
Tunisia	La Goulette ...	... 11	Belgium	Ghent ...	... 8
Algeria	Bona ...	... 24	Spain	Vivero ...	... 1
	Algiers ...	... 7		Huelva ...	... 1
Spain	Bilbao ...	... 3	Tunisia	Tunis ...	... 2
Sierra Leone	Pepel ...	... 15	Holland	Rotterdam ...	... 5
India	Vizagapatam...	... 4	Norway	Narvik ...	... 8
Norway	Narvik ...	... 7	Finland	Helsingfors ...	... 1
France	Rouen ...	... 1	Algeria	Algiers ...	... 3
Jugo-Slavia	Susak ...	... 2	Syria	Tripoli ...	... 6
Egypt	Abuzenima ...	... 1	U.S.S.R.	Archangel ...	... 2
U.S.S.R.	Poti ...	... 1	S. America	Rio-de -Jane ...	... 1
Irish Free State Ports	...	... 103	West Italian Ports	...	... 6
		179	Irish Free State Ports	...	... 79
					123

3.—*Water Supply.*

Details of this service have been previously described. There is a plentiful and continuous supply of fresh water

to meet all requirements. The supply was chemically and bacteriologically examined during the year and found satisfactory.

#### 4.—*Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.*

The existing approved arrangements have continued to work smoothly, and I have to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered by H.M. Customs Officers to the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

During the year several reports of sickness were received but fortunately proved to be of a non-infectious character.

On the Greek vessel "Marouko Pateras" from Pepel (Sierra Leone) a fireman was found suffering from indefinite symptoms of an influenzal nature, and, as a matter of precaution, was removed to the Isolation Hospital for observation. On the Jugo-Slav vessel "Supetar" from Bona (Algeria) the Captain was found suffering from pneumonia together with other suspicious symptoms, and was removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. Fortunately, nothing of an infectious nature was diagnosed, and both patients recovered.

In both instances, however, the vessels were disinfected immediately after removal of patients to Hospital, and the crews kept under observation.

On seven other vessels illness was reported, but in each case was found to be of a non-infectious character.

A number of cases of Venereal Disease required treatment, and instruction cards were issued. I must, however, reiterate my opinion that the free treatment afforded at the County Council Clinics at Whitehaven and Carlisle is not utilised owing to distance.

Careful attention has again been paid to the question of vermin on vessels, and in nine instances bug in-

festation was found in the forecastles. Disinfestation work to rid the vessels of vermin was carried out. I consider that much of the trouble in this direction is caused through frequent changing of crews, and vermin is taken aboard in personal belongings.

#### 5.—*Measures Against Rodents.*

The absence of food stores on the Quay Side, and the nature of materials shipped, minimises the nuisance from the presence of rats. Vessels are carefully examined for the presence of rats, and in four instances the Masters of vessels were requested to put rat guards on the mooring ropes as a matter of precaution.

Deratisation Certificates were examined, and in seven instances were found to have expired, and notices were given to renew at the first available approved Port.

#### 6.—*Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.*

TABLE J.  
CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ...	... 414	—	64	15
Other Nations ...	... 41	—	7	6

During the year 85 informal notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector for various defects or other conditions prejudicial to health. No statutory notices were served.

#### 7.—*Food Inspection.*

No foodstuffs have been exported.

60 tons of Potatoes were imported from Northern Ireland, the consignment being covered by a Certificate on Form M.P. 3 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland.



8.—*General.*

The conditions under which many of the crews have to live is far from satisfactory especially on certain coasting vessels. These are always on the move (in at one tide, out the next) and there is a continuous atmosphere of coal and other dust resulting in the men having little time to give attention to their meagre quarters.

There is room for improvement in this direction and I should like to see legislation introduced providing more comfortable living quarters and minimising the trying conditions which crews have to endure.

During the year a dead porpoise was washed up on the foreshore, and was removed and destroyed.

The Harbour and Dock have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Again I must record my appreciation to the Harbour Master and H. M. Customs for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer to the Authority.*



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